

Claims

We claim:

1. (Currently amended) A purified protein having ELF3 protein biological activity, the amino acid sequence of which comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~or SEQ ID NO: 13~~; and
- (b) ~~amino acid sequences that differ from SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 13 by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions; and~~
- (c) amino acid sequences having at least 91-95% sequence identity to the sequences specified in (a) or (b).

2. (Original) The purified protein of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

3-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The purified protein of claim 1 bound by an anti-ELF3 protein antibody ~~ELF3 protein-specific binding agent~~.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) An isolated ELF3 protein, the amino acid sequence of which consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) The anti-ELF3 protein antibody of claim 12.

17. (New) A purified anti-ELF3 protein antibody that binds specifically to the protein of claim 1.

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